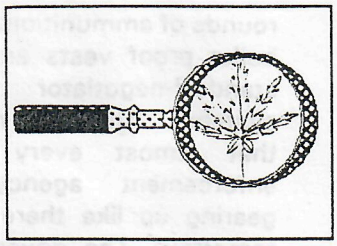
The Hemp Coalitions' 'Almost a Newsletter'

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check Metrolands' Et Cetera for meeting dates

October 1994
Vol 4 #4



WORDS»»»»

by Kilgore Trout

The other night I went to see George Carlin and while he didn't talk about changing the marijuana laws, he did get me to thinking about words. He has a bit where he talks on how phrases change over time to fit 'modern language' or now must be politically correct. His example was shell-shocked, and how it has evolved into 'post traumatic stress syndrome'. This got me on to the phrase 'substance abuser' and how it groups together too many different types of drug users/abusers. I don't think the movement to legalize marijuana should allow frequent marijuana users/abusers to be called substance abusers. Instead I think that we/the movement should refer to this type of marijuana consumer as, and this term should jog more than one memory, a pothead. This is an instantly recognizable term and leaves no doubt in anyones' mind what you are referring to, someone who smokes/consumes a lot of marijuana. And we shouldn't stop there, alcoholics could be divided back into their original categories, drunks and winos. Cocaine and heroin abusers would once again be referred to as junkies. LSD eaters would have the moniker acid heads. Amphetamine user/abusers would have that wonderful title speed freaks. And so on, and so on, and so on...What I want to get across is that if we let ourselves to be grouped in with the hard drug users it is going to be a hell of lot harder to get the politicians to legalize marijuana. And I think it shows already in the polls that have been done on drug legalization. Most of the polls show that near 70% of the people would favor marijuana legalization but that number drops considerably when marijuana is grouped with other drugs. And so on, and so on, and so on...

Another thing I want to chat about is the way anti-legalization forces always fall back on the position of 'saving the children'. Now as Terry Mitchell of the Green Panthers was telling me in his column, most of the politicians come from the age of the 'nuclear family'. Now in those days it was the responsibility of the parents to educate their children about the good and bad of life, which includes, lessons about drugs. So why have they now taken it upon themselves to be responsible for everyone elses kids. Well the way I see it is that all their other arguments against a regulated drug market are being shot down one at a time and it is very easy to strike a nerve with 'what about the children?'. How can the drug war with it corruption of cops,judges and the rest of them and the violence in the streets be best for the children? That answer is simple, it is not good for anyone! While a regulated drug market may or may not end most of the street crime, it has to be better than what is going down in the streets now. And so on, and so on, and so on...

Defense Positions ?

Let's see if the following will work for us here in the American court system. With Germanys Supreme Court ruling that marijuana users deserve the same protection as do the legal drug users, there is no reason in my mind that the same shouldn't hold true for American marijuana POW's. After all doesn't the American marijuana consumer deserve the same guarantee of equal treatment under the law that it seems that both constitutions have in their wording. Why should users of alcohol and tobacco receive different treatment than the marijuana consumer? And of course the answer to that ditty is that the marijuana consumer does deserve to be treated in a similar manner.

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Talk it up!!!

Don't forget to talk

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prohibition with as many people as you can fit into your day. Of course, don't let it become you only topic. Then people will start to try and avoid you. Sort of like the born-again who mention Jesus 300 times in five minutes of conversation. Don't get me wrong, I love the idea of Jesus as much as the next BornAgain but don't feel the need to make it my constant thought.

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favor of removing criminal penalties for marijuana. It said"More than 75% of the readers who took part in an informal PARADE telephone poll say marijuana should be as legal as alcoholic beverages." Of course they make sure you know the poll was 'informal' as if the results would be different if it was a formal poll. Well I have to believe that the results would be nearly identical, with respondents still being overwhelmingly in favor of a change in the laws. The rest of the results show that; 89% favor medicinal marijuana; 35% were frequent users; 20% had never used marijuana; over 50% were over the age of 36. This last stat shows that there must be many adult pot smokers that can function in society without any detriment to themselves or their families. In other words, and this is what the politicians and the business people want to hear, people who pay their taxes and provide a dependable labor force. On the dissenting side, Eric Siweck,33, a cop from Missoula Mont. says "Legalizing marijuana would only establish the toehold that those in favor of complete legalization of drugs would need." Thus inferring that the contrary nature of prohibition, that is the fact that people are thinking they are doing good, will be exposed as flawed. And that a government that has been lying to us for the last sixty years about marijuana, well they just might figure that the government has been lying to us about the good of all drug prohibition.And the people would then favor complete legalization. As a means to save money and as a means to make the streets safer.

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$$Pocketbooks$$

What can unite liberals and conservatives alike. Well it is drug policy reform. The conservatives hate to see their tax dollar go into programs that don't work and the liberal sees it as losing constitutional freedoms. Actually I think they both hate to see their money, as we all see it, wasted. So how much do marijuana laws cost? Using 1990 as the example, there were over 14 million arrests and it cost $74.25 billion which comes to $5,230 per arrest.Multiply that by the 326,850 marijuana arrests and it comes to a lofty $1.7 billion for marijuana prohibition. And this figure may be low according to NORML who said the figure could run as high as $5 billion. Now, using the lower amount, if that money was put to use in another area, say education, you could educate every student in probably six major city school systems. And with all I hear about school taxes from home owners, ending marijuana prohibition could be the golden egg they are looking for. In any event, most all sides of the political spectrum should agree that it is time to stop sending bad money (tax money) after good money (earned by the people).

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Well it is harvest time and the police are having a great time. Telling the press that one plant can be over six pounds. Or at least that is what the local news recently reported. One hundred eighty plants that weighed in at 1200 pounds. If only New York farmers could grow the plant legally...how many millions in tax revenue could be produced for the politicians to squander? Who knows? But what is known is the cost to administer eradication programs and its cost is in the millions nationwide. Sooner or later saving the almighty budget dollar is going to sound nice to the pols and JQPublic and then we will see the legalization push turn into a shove. Hopefully this will happen sooner rather than later, but mark these words, it will happen.

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Did you see NORML's director Dick Cowan on GMA disputing the claims made by the DEA agents about the potency of pot being so much more than in the sixties. And how about the encouraging way the segement ended, inferring that marijuana prohibition

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was a big waste of money. And how about the DEA agents, I could swear I smoked fatties with both the dudes that they showed. They were very mercenery in their appearance. That is probably because mercenaries owe allegience to no one but the almighty dollar and if people give them money to fight the marijuana consumer, they will take it gladly. Because if they did have an allegieance to the Constitution they would realize instantly that what one person does with their own body is governed by no one but whatever higher power they choose to worship. The higher power that the DEA folk worship is, I'll say it once again, the almighty dollar. Or how else could they justify to themselves, the destruction and pain they inflict on their neighbors families. 'Sorry no new school clothes or even a Christmas for my children this year, the DEA has uprooted the seed bearing herb that my higher power has given me to use to feed my animals, to cloth me, to relax me.'

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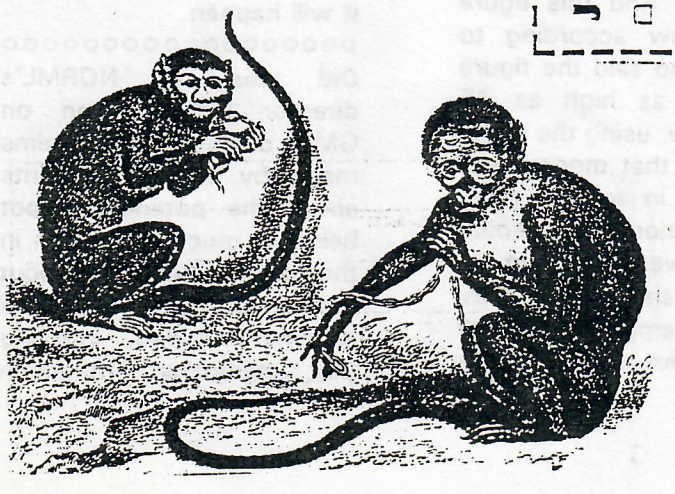

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From the AP wire-Marlborough NY. Nearly 4,000 marijuana plants were found growing in a densely wooded area of this farming town. Police say the value of this haul was between $6 and $8 million dollars. Now if only the farmers of Marlborough could be the ones to make that kind of money for the crops they grow! Instead of money going into the towns coffers it will go into the pockets of the people who worked the enforcement end of it. In another words, more taxpayer money down the drain. I am sure that wasn't the crop that RJ Reynolds wanted the Marlboro man growing.

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GREEN PANTHERS! Quartermaster Supply Form

☐ *Right on!* Rush _____ copies of ***How to Start and Train a Partisan Militia*** to me @ $5 each_____.
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New Age Patriot

New Age Patriot is dedicated to legalizing Hemp Marijuana for Medical, Industrial, Agricultural & Personal Use. We are quite confident that the majority of Americans - regardless of whether they smoke or not - support Marijuana Re-Legalization. But in order for this to happen we need your financial support to organize events like ***International Drug Policy Day*** and to change public opinion. As things stand now we don't even have the funds to establish ourselves on the Internet. We are tired of the 60 million hypocrites that smoke Hemp/Marijuana - yet refuse to even subscribe or contribute to New Age Patriot. ***And the sad part of it is that if just 5% of you would just subscribe we would have a $30 Million dollar annual budget - more than enough money to end Marijuana Prohibition for Ever!!!*** Please consider the following options and at least pursue one of them:

1) ***Send a check of money order for $15.00 and become a "New Age Patriot."*** You will receive the next 6 issues of our 24 page publication. ***New Age Patriot*** is packed with the latest information on Marijuana Re-Legalization Events and News as it unfolds around the world. Issues are enclosed in a plain mailer to protect your privacy. New Age Patriot can also sign you up at the various events that we attend e.g.(Hash Bash, The Earth Fest etc.).

2) Purchase a couple of books. ***If you purchase any 5 books you get a free 6-issue subscription to New Age Patriot and you don't have to pay any shipping charges.***

3) Send an anonymous contribution (cash or money order) if you are uneasy about options 1) & 2). You might want to include a 10 digit number that we can use to verify that you are a contributor.

There is serious talk of exposing Marijuana Smokers that don't contribute - to Marijuana Re-Legalization - to their Employers. This is known as "outing." The 10 digit number will protect both your "outing" and your anonymity. We activists are getting tired of being martyrs for the 30-60 Million "closet" smokers and are gearing up to "share" the joy of political persecution . Give generously and often so that we can end this Drug Inquisition once and for ever!

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